Towards a collaborative city Citizens' engagement in the City of Bologna



Introduction

Bologna is an Italian city with 389,009 inhabitants.

It has a long tradition in the field of public participation.

During the last 15 years, the city has developed a long series of initiatives, shared actions and policies to co-design urban development and take care of the urban commons together with its citizens.



2000s: planning the city together

In the 2000s, the local administration recognized citizens participation as a tool to improve the implementation of structural plans and city planning.

Several processes have been experimented from 2004 to 2009:

- Laboratorio Mercato and other dedicated to the transformation of Bologna's neighbourhoods and to the discussion of interventions defined in structural plans (Croce del Biacco, Bolognina Est, etc.)
- Bologna città che cambia City forum
- Structural plan and the initiative Bologna si fa in sette
- Other experiences: urban-planning competitions (Bella fuori), Urban Center permanent exhibition, round-tables, etc.

These experiences fostered (and in some case are the result of) a change in municipal normatives on planning, that were amend with articles dedicated to citizens engagement values and tools.

A paradigm shift

During the first years of the economic crisis, there has been a shift in the approach to citizens' participation in urban development due to economic uncertainties and lack of resources, distrust in politics and changes in citizens' priorities, needs and claims.

Long term urban plans and investments

Policy actions and interventions
with short and medium terms
investments.
(proximity interventions,
relationships, daily uses of public
spaces and services,urban
commons)

A paradigm shift: new tools for the collaborative city

Municipality experimented and acquired new tools to include different urban actors and inhabitants in the co-design of the city, as:

- INCREDIBOL!
- Iperbole (the renewed) Civic Network
- Collaborare è Bologna
- Regulation for the care and regeneration of urban commons

In particular, the Regulation allows territorial stakeholders and citizens to sign "cooperation pacts" with the administration, taking on responsibility for solving problems and taking care of a particular area of the town.

Toward 2020: the Urban innovation plan and a policy for collaboration

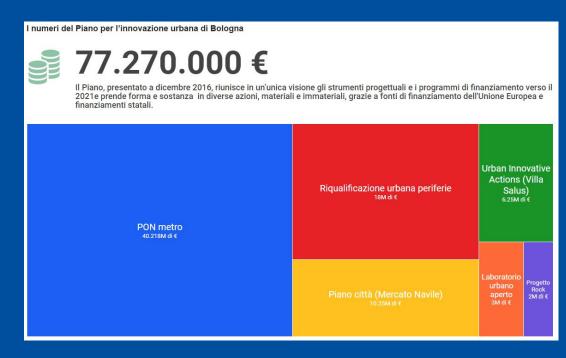
The Urban Innovation Plan is a vision to build up all together the Urban Agenda toward 2020. It focuses on 5 main themes: Collaborative spaces; Social Inclusion, Education, Right and Opportunities; Environmental Sustainability; International Attractivities; Digital spaces and technologies for citizens.

It has to be achieved through Civic imagination' approach, collaborative method stressing

- The importance of a closer and informed relation between citizens and institutions
- Certain and well defined outcomes
- Use of different participatory instruments
- Proximity logic as a transversal guideline

Urban innovation plan: financial resources

- PON Metro 2014-2020
 - Digital
 - Social
 - Buildings requalification
- Urban Innovative Actions (Villa Salus project)
- Horizon 2020 (Rock)
- National Plan for suburbs requalification
- Laboratorio Urbano aperto
- City plan and 1 mln euro dedicated to
 Participatory budgeting initiative



District Laboratories: build the collaborative city

District Labs' initiative is inserted in the Urban Innovation Plan of the City of Bologna.

It is attempt to build a stable model linking public resources and citizens. District Labs are based on peculiar methodologies and experiment new forms of community engagement in the transformation of proximity areas, public space and public buildings.

Labs are permanent "spaces" committed to the engagement of excluded populations: young people and immigrant communities and use open data and new technologies to be accountable and effective.

District Labs: activities and tools

Every year, Labs will be activated by Bologna's Districts on the basis of the planned investments, citizens' recommendations, socio-economic priorities.

Labs are the space in which different tools integrates each other and are available to citizens, in particular:

- Participatory budgeting
- Codesign process for the definition of collaborative uses of 11 public buildings
- Consultation on priorities to be perceived in the field of social, education and culture policies
- Collaboration pacts
- Other initiatives

Processes are implemented using traditional forms of participation but also digital platforms and tools.

District Labs: the process

District Labs are organised in different phases:

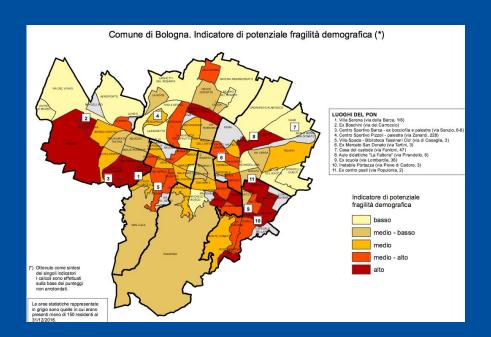
- Priority definition by Municipality's sectors, Districts and associations, stakeholders and communities
- 2. Suggestion of ideas and projects in public meeting with citizens and targeted communities (immigrants, youngsters)
- 3. Co-creation of ideas
- 4. Voting phase (in the framework of Participatory budgeting)

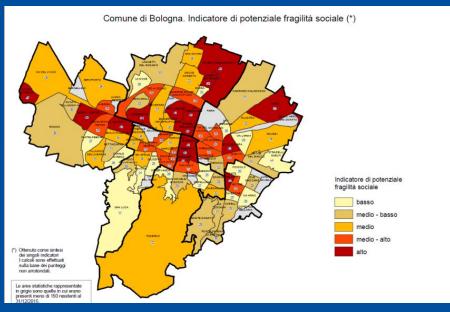
Every year the cycle restarts.

Our first year in numbers: a big engagement campaign

- 11 processes activated, more than 90 events, workshops, focus groups and many territorial "explorations"
- 2.500 people participating and 225 citizens involved in the co-design of projects and public buildings
- 11 projects for renewed public buildings to become community hubs
- 27 project proposals for new gardens, buildings, streets and squares to be voted in the framework of Participatory budgeting. 6 winning projects to be financed before the end of 2019
- 14.584 citizens voted for Participatory budgeting projects
- 12 policy priorities for Bologna's future

What we learned? Work on defined areas





What we learned? Relations are precious





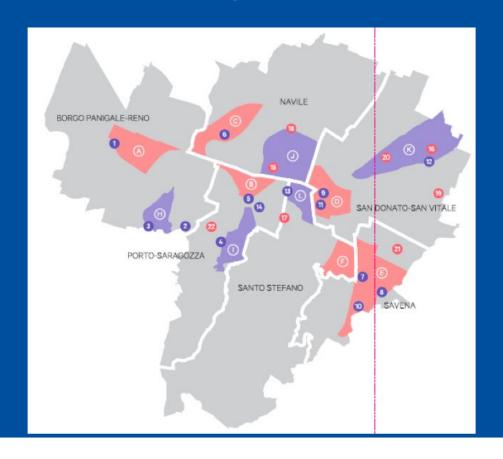
What we learned? Use different tools





Come è stato annunciato nei vari incontri nei quartieri, i progetti vincitori del Bilancio Partecipativo del 2017

What we learned? Proximity gives you different perspectives



What we learned? Public spaces, community assets





What we learned? Multicompetence staff



Challenges

- How to manage the relationship with big infrastructural transformation, defined and implemented also by different administrative levels and plans (i.e. national level)
- Private sector uncertainties
- Conflictual processes and NIMBY committees (i.e. Prati di Caprara and Passante di mezzo)
- Different tools for different needs
- Build an efficient implementation and monitoring system based on open data, digital tools but also symbolic moments
- Improving participation culture among citizens and in the public sector

Thank you!

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Extra slides

Focusing on Participatory budgeting

In 2017 Participatory budgeting was tested in 6 different area of Bologna's Districts.

Citizens could suggest project proposals dedicated to: urban regeneration, public space and public works.

It has been possible to submit proposals both during *District Labs*'s public events and via online, using the municipal civic network.

After the feasibility assessment, the proposals have been codesigned by Bologna's citizens, supported by technicians from the public administration.

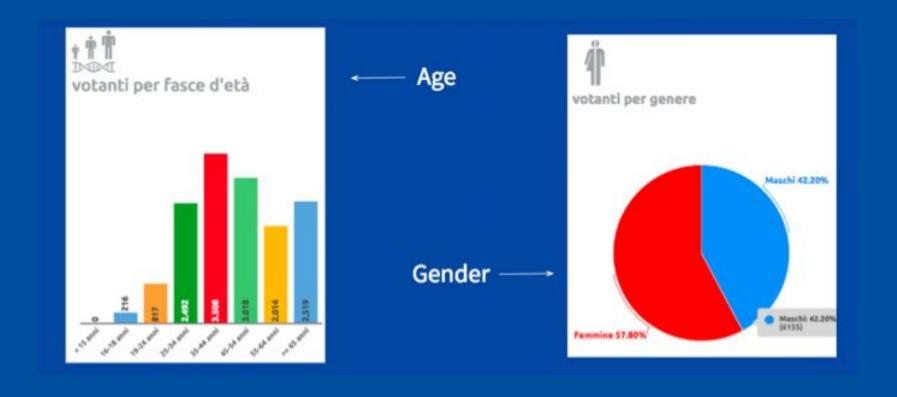
Focusing on Participatory budgeting



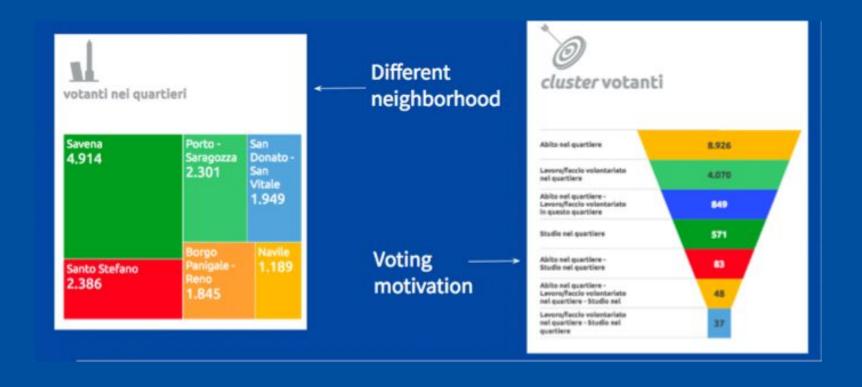
Focusing on Participatory budgeting: some figures

- 574 citizens attended public events dedicated to Participatory budgeting, 90 proposals were collected via web
- 27 proposals were considered eligible for the voting phase. These projects have been devoted to: new parks, new building for young people, bicycle path, public art.
- More than 88 citizens declared their availability to codesign their projects with the municipal technicians
- 14.584 citizens voted for Participatory budgeting projects

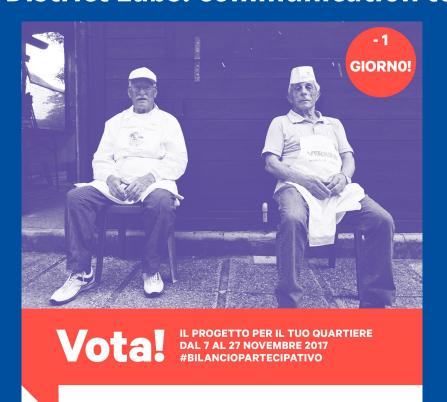
Focusing on Participatory budgeting: some data



Focusing on Participatory budgeting: some data



District Labs: communication tools





District Labs: digital tools

Laboratori di Quartiere

Con i Laboratori potrai segnalare, creare e far votare proposte per il tuo quartiere: contattaci o vieni agli incontri, per lavorare insieme a tecnici del Comune di Bologna ed esperti di coprogettazione. Utilizzando tutti gli strumenti e i metodi di volta involta necessari per far emergere e valorizzare le competenze diffuse e garantire un'interazione informata, i Laboratori di Quartiere hanno l'obiettivo di coinvolgere, in modo stabile, comunità e cittadini all'interno del Plano Innovazione Urbana. Segui le attività, quartiere per quartiere.

Chi siamo e objettivi

Piano Innovazione Urbana













San Donato - San Vitale

Per il 2018, le attività del Laboratorio di Quartiere San Donato-San Vitale si concentreranno su: il Bilancio Partecipativo, da sperimentare nella zona Croce del Biacco; il percorso per individuare e co-progettare azioni di contrasto alle diverse e nuove forme di povertà nell'ambito del Piani di Zona 2018-2021; la coprogettazione delle priorità su cultura e welfare, adolescenti e giovani; il monitoraggio delle attività previste dai Laboratori nel 2017. Oltre a queste attività, sarà attivato un percorso dedicato alla zona Pilastro all'Interno del progetto "Paesaggio Pilastro" del Piano Periferie.

Sito del Quartiere San Donato - San Vitale

Piano innovazione urbana

Percorsi





Tra gli obiettivi del Laboratorio di Quartiere c'è lo sviluppo di proposte e il voto su interventi su spazi pubblici nell'ambito del

san Donato - San Vitale



an Donato Centro - Cirenaio

Il Laboratorio di Quartiere per il 2017 sulla zona San Donato Centro e Cirenaica ha avuto i seguenti obiettivi:

San Donato - San Vitale



Bilancio Partecipativo

Il Bilancio Partecipativo è uno strumento di democrazia diretta per segnalare, ideare e votare proposte per una zona del proprio quartiere.

| Tutti i quartieri



Piano di zona

Il Piano di zona è lo strumento programmatorio di Comune e Distretto Ausl in cui sono definite le politiche sociali e socio-sanitarie rivolte alla popolazione sulla base degli indirizzi del Piano s

im Tutti i quartieri



Bandi a sostegno di progetti destinati a giovani e adolescenti

Per promuovere e sostenere lo sviluppo di progetti destinati a giovani ed adolescenti il Comune di Bologna prevede l'uscita di un bando attraverso cui saranno selezionati sei progetti, uno per ogni

Tutti i quartieri

Partecipa

In *Partecipa* citizens:

- Have their own User Profile (also association can have their profile)
- Have their own Blog
- Interact with other citizens
- Reportheir projects online and involve other citizens
- Participate in Public consultations
- Can activate a cooperation pact with the Municipality (and report about it)
- Consult open data
- Can vote with Participatory budgeting
- 60.050 citizens have a user on Iperbole.
- 22.702 citizens and organizations have a user on Partecipa! (may 2018)

A digital space for District Labs

Since 2018 Iperbole hosts more District Labs' contents.

Every District has its how digital space in which citizens can find all the participatory initiatives activated in their District.

Citizen can:

- Subscribe to District Labs or to single processes activated in the Labs
- Find all reports and data supporting the processes
- Monitor the development of the Labs and the implementation of the decisions taken in the Labs
- Engage in Participatory budgeting initiative using new tools as: PB news, registration to events, registration to *Partecipa*, visualize better PB different phases

Partecipa's future perspectives

In the framework of Urban Digital Agenda, in 2017 citizens were asked to help the Municipality in the redesign of the civic network focusing on services and on online tools for participation.

Citizens were engaged by using questionnaires, focus group and participatory design sessions.

In the next years Iperbole will change its aspect favoring

- <u>Proximity logic</u>: Iperbole will host a section dedicated to Districts, collecting services and participative initiatives declined locally
- <u>Flexibility</u>: given the big number of initiatives implemented by the Municipality, participatory tools will be flexible and modular in order to be usable for different kind of engagement process and project
- Enabling role: digital tools as a support and a new element of traditional participation rather than a substitute.

Future perspectives

The Foundation for Urban Innovation was established with a strong mandate to engage citizens in the construction of the city's future, with transparency and information, by using open data and different participatory tools and methods.

More sectors of Bologna's Municipality are recognizing the value of citizens engagement, asking for the activation of new participatory processes, fostering the growth and differentiation of Bologna's collaborative ecosystem and policy.

The main objective is to contaminate with this approach more and more policies and interventions of the city administration and to develop a more organic co-production system between citizen and administration.